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ABSTRACT

Nearly 100 teachers worked with staff members at the Exploratorium museum in San Francisco, California, to create scaled-down versions of Exploratorium exhibits that teachers could make on their own using common, inexpensive, readily-available materials. The experiments--called "snacks"--are divided into easy-to-follow sections that contain instructions, advice, and helpful hints. Each snack begins with a drawing of the original full-sized exhibit on the museum floor and a photograph of the scaled-down version that teachers can construct. A short paragraph introduces the exhibit followed by a list of materials needed and suggestions on how to find the materials. Other sections give assembly instructions, descriptions for using the completed exhibits, and explanations of the science concepts behind them. A section entitled "etc." offers additional scientific and historical information. Sample demonstrations include a bicycle wheel as a giant gyroscope, soap bubbles as geometric art, a checkbook balanced using the physics method, wooden blocks stacked to seemingly defy gravity, a pendulum drawing board, and a downhill cylinder race. (PVD)

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